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SECURITY INFORMATION
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

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Traffic and Installations in Sassnitz Harbor

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. Only insignificant traffic was observed in Sassnitz (54°3' N/13°3' E) during the period from 29 January to 12 June 1951. In March 1951, 68 trips [redacted] were made by the rail25X1 ferry service in each direction. Incoming were 425 loaded cars and 330 empty cars, and outgoing were 2,320 loaded cars and 15 empty cars. Imports to the Soviet Zone of Germany included: granite stones, iron and steel wares, caustic soda, wood pulp and fish. Transit trade for Czechoslovakia included: nickel ore, storage batteries, machinery, ball bearings, scrap, chemicals and linseed. Exports from Czechoslovakia [redacted] in March 1951, included about 1,600 sedans, delivery vans and other vehicles of Czech origin. 25X1
2. Sassnitz is the port of registry of about 200 drifters and fishing cutters and a port where up to 67 cutters [redacted] land their catches. A commission of 6 Volkspolizei officers and 2 [redacted] civilians made inquiries concerning the [redacted] cutters in 25X1 Sassnitz on 12 June 1951. (1) Returning from a fishing cruise off Bornholm Island on 1 May 1951, fishing cutter ROS 119 Patriot put into harbor on 1 May 1951 with part of the crew poisoned by mustard gas, and after the vessel was decontaminated, it left for Rostock on 10 May. (2) Work on the ice factory, the cultural center in the Eastern Harbor, and the fishing combine in the Western Harbor had to be discontinued in June 1951 because of the shortage of material and machinery required for the interior of these buildings. 224 workmen employed there were discharged. (3) 25X1
3. On 2 February 1951, a new seiner type fishing steamer, PC 619, and seiner MPT 1029 arrived from the Nationalized Shipyard in Stralsund. The two vessels were manned by Russian civilians and were en route to Koenigsberg as reparations. They left the harbor on 12 February 1951. On 28 May 1951, new drifters [redacted] arrived from Rostock. They had a crew of 12 each and left harbor on 30 May 1951, probably for Koenigsberg. On 9 and 10 June 1951, drifters 25X1 [redacted] of the same type put in but left on 10 and 11 June 1951, presumably for Koenigsberg. (4) 25X1

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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4. During the period from 29 January to 5 February, Soviet warships engaged on maneuvers and target practice off Wissnower (sic) Glimmer (Wissow Cliffs). Target practice was resumed by Soviet vessels during the period from 26 May to 4 June 1951. The vessels fired their AA guns including two 37 mm and two 20 mm guns and also laid smoke screens while two aircraft circled the area. (5) 25X1
5. Soviet vessels were observed in the waters off Sassnitz on 20 April 1951. Two Volkspolizei boats put to sea at the same time; however, they did not join the group of Soviet warships in exercises. At nightfall on 22 April, six warships of the same type disappeared in a northeasterly direction. (6) 25X1
6. Two Soviet submarines were observed by fishermen about 15 km NNE of Sassnitz on 4 April 1951. No details could be made out since they proceeded partially submerged. A small Soviet vessel with a crew of 11 was in the harbor on 12 May. The crew was working on the Soviet floating dock which is tied up about 500 meters east of the mole. On 13 May, two Soviet PT boats, were in harbor for a few hours. They seemed to be new; their paint was fresh and their armament was covered with new tarpaulins. Three guns were seen on deck. They were believed to be either three light AA guns or two light machine guns and one AA gun. A torpedo tube was seen on each side of the low bridge. On top of the bridge was a mast, about 3 meters tall, with a metal hemisphere, about 800 mm in diameter fitted to the masthead. The crew seemed to consist of 8 officers and 11 men. At the same time, 11 officers were seen standing near the boats. 25X1
7. From 6 to 11 February 1951, the Volkspolizei boat Freundschaft was in harbor. She was manned by 3 officers and 12 men. Her shape was that of a PT boat, and she had three screws. On 20 April, a Volkspolizei boat with two 20 mm guns, one forward and one aft, and a crew of 12 put in. The boat left on the next day with one Russian civilian and two Russian officers in uniforms aboard. Two other Volkspolizei boats of the same type put into harbor on 6 June. They had no distinguishing numbers or names. On 13 February 1951, Commissar Henning, (fnu) was chief of the harbor police which consisted of 4 officers and 40 men including the sea police unit and was subordinate to the criminal police and Soviet authorities. In May, the Volkspolizei harbor control was reinforced by sea police personnel. Harbor control is also exercised by the secret police.
8. On 10 May, the fourth mast of Radio Ruegen was completed near the transmitting station in Lohme. Work on that transmitter and its interior was still under way. (7)
9. Beginning in early June 1951, mail from Sassnitz to Stralsund took two days while previously it took at most one day. It is believed that mail censorship was tightened.

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- Comments.
- (1) Fishermen from the go to Sassnitz because prices of fuel are low and catches are well paid for there. Most of the vessels are former KFK (Kriegsfischkutter) which were chartered for German fishermen. Fishermen stated they were treated kindly in Sassnitz. 25X1

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- (2) Mustard gas poisoning of fishermen on that fishing ground was a frequent occurrence. The gas probably comes from German bombs which were dumped into the waters east of Bornholm Island during the last months of the war. Leakages of the containers caused by corrosion set the poison free so that it acts on the fishermen when they haul in their nets. This area is designated contaminated in German notices to Mariners.
- (3) Similar information was received from shipyards where work was curtailed by the shortage of material from the Western Zones.
- (4) Vessels built in the Soviet Zone of Germany and recently transferred from Koenigsberg included 9 seiner type fishing steamers sent to Vladivostok, 12 drifters sent to Murmansk and 14 to the Black Sea.
- (5) These are motor minesweepers of Soviet design. One flotilla is stationed in Swinemuende, and Sassnitz serves as a base for target practice and other exercises. A number of these boats were also seen in Swinemuende.
- (6) The CK-boats stationed in Swinemuende are former German motor mine-sweepers.
- (7) Radio Ruegen is the radio station for communication in the Baltic. It is known that an additional 5 kw short-wave transmitter is under construction there. This radio station works with the main radio station in Koenigswusterhausen near Berlin.

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